

Football 76

Chapter 76 Battle Of Youth 2

The ball went flying to the side hitting the far post as it bounces back into play heading to the edge of the box. Ryan was the one to pick up the ball first immediately charging for a counterattack.

The midfield charged ahead with the ball as he looked over his shoulder only to be met with the charge of Reece coming from his side. Seeing the urgency, he stepped into another gear increasing his speed forward as he held his hand out to keep the opposing midfielder at bay. That worked as neither of them seemed to be able to overpower the other, but it also resulted in his pace slowing down.

Not wanting to risk losing the ball Reece hurriedly sent a pass forward. Max left his marking coming deeper to collect the pass. Doing a quick scan of his surroundings he instantly charged to the opponent's penalty box seemingly wanting to redeem his earlier mistake.

Quickly making his way through the opponent's half he quickly arrived before Henric the only blockade that kept him from entering the opponent's penalty box. Not wanting to risk another physical confrontation with the defender he performed a quick step-over before passing the ball to his left.

On the left wing, Rakim could be seen racing along the flank closely followed by Finn who hadn't participated in the previous attack. The wing had a slight speed advantage as he arrived at the side of the penalty box. The winger who was still moving at a high speed suddenly drew his left foot back before sending a cross into the box.

The ball just nearly dodged the sliding tackle from Finn travelling at a sharp angle into the box. The ball drew a shape arc as it flew into the fast stride of Max who had managed to get rid of the guard of Henric. The striker seeing his chance jumped into the ball's flight path feet first resembling a fly kick.

Although not making perfect contact with the ball he still managed to Vear its flight path slotting it into the bottom right corner. The poor goalkeeper could only watch the ball hitting the back of his net for a second time in this game. Seeing that he finally scored his goal Max started celebrating wildly as he run to embrace Rakim who provided his assist.

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Finn dribbled the ball down the middle of the pitch with confidence as he used his body to keep Ryan at bay. Reaching the halfway line with Ryan still at his side the midfielder abruptly performed an emergency stop. Using that manoeuvre he managed to create a bit of separation from his pressure as he swiped the ball to his side.

Using the space Fin sent a short pass to his right finding the feet of Reece as he made his way forward. A second later he received a return pass from his midfield duo continuing forward towards the opposing box. After a couple of yards, he sent a weighted pass to Tom who received it whilst using his body to hold back James.

Taking A second to pivot his body the striker used his hands to manoeuvre around the defender stepping into the box. James found himself unable to compete with the striker's physical strength and ended up tripping over himself after being caught off balance.

The striker took two big strides ahead before firing a shot at the goalkeeper who had just made his way forward. With a loud bang, the ball soared to the top left corner of the goal before the keeper could even react. Seeing his shot go in the Striker started celebrating wildly as he run back to his own half.

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[Mc Pov]

[Fweet Fweet Fweet]

The sound of the whistle signalling the end of the match came suddenly since we had just kicked off again after the green team equalised with us. Not bothering with it I just made my way to my bag to get a drink. Just as I picked up my drink, I felt someone tap my shoulder causing me to turn around.

"Hi, I'm Tom you played well in the game just now," A boy with a mop said to me with a confident grin on his face. He is tall for his age and has quite a sturdy build to go with it. Looking at his confidence that matched his physical gifts It made sense why none of my team's defenders seemed to be able to handle him.

"yo name's Rakim and you weren't so bad yourself," I told him with a smile as we did a quick fist bump. The both of us started talking with each other as we rested by the side of the field since the other game wasn't done yet.

I found out that Tom is a grade above me in the same one as Emma but not in the same class as he's not that academically gifted. That's not to say he is dumb just that he is average since like most boys he is more focused on playing sports. He has a cousin who is also a part of the school team, but he won't be in school till next week.

Just as we were getting to know one another coach called us in to have a talk a while after the other team's game ended. Looking at his stoic expression as he sized up our group brought a sense of

seriousness. I could see that some of the kids around me were panicking slightly, probably not sure if their performance was enough to guarantee their spot in team A.

"Alright I've seen enough for today from both games the coaching staff and I have picked the players for each team" He calmly started his speech holding our attention as we waited with baited breaths to see which team we would be assigned to. It didn't really matter to me which team I would be assigned to as I would still complete the system quest of joining a team. However, if I have to join a team I might as well join the best one possible since the competition will help me improve faster.

"Alright I'm done talking let's get to the point," Coach Baker finally said after five whole five minutes of chatter where he went over some information. Apparently, the teams won't be final as depending on our performance we might get moved up and down.

[Team A]

GK(Goalkeeper): Mike Terrance (GK), Ben Walker (GK)

DF(Defenders): Henric Eriksson (CB), Ole Wagner (CB), Jake Smith (CB), Logan Foster (RB), Ryan Garcia (Lb),

MD(Midfielders): Finn Parker (CM), Ben Miller (CAM), Lucas Scott (CM), Damian Green (CDM),

FD(Forwards): Tom Walker (ST), Max Taylor (RW), Rakim Rex (LW), Blake Young (ST),

Listening to the list of fifteen players that were chosen for team A I was left surprised at some names whilst others made sense to me. One name that surprised me is Tom's cousin was directly chosen for the team without having to try out. However, if what the striker said about him being some hotshot Goalkeeper is true it makes sense.

Apparently, he is still at a Goalie development camp overseas in Germany after getting an invitation last season. Good to know that Tom wasn't just bragging about his cousin and the boy had the skills to back it up. Another name that had me quite curious is the boy named Ben Miller. He played in the other game, so I didn't get to see his playing style, but I reckon he is good since his position is the heart of the Offence.

"That's it for today you will be training with your teams starting next Monday, I wish you all the best and hopefully you will play for me on the high school team," Coach Baker told us as he walked away with the coaching staff of all the levels who seemed either satisfied or disappointed with their team. Seeing them leave I decided to also get out of here since there is no point staying any longer.

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[Ding: Congratulations to the host for completing the first main mission task]

Mission: !Wonderkid!

#Task 1 New Kid: Join any type of football team (1/1)

[Rewards: 1,000 Sp]

(Comment: Keep up the good work)

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Looking at the mission rewards that appeared when I was announced for Team A I couldn't help but smile. It feels great knowing that I'm moving forward towards my goal of becoming a footballer even though I'm still young. Feeling content with my achievement I pulled up my status screen whilst I made my way to where the cheerleaders trained.

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[Ding]

[FOOTBALL SINGULARITY SYSTEM

USER: Rakim Rex

AGE: 6yrs

TALENT ASSESSMENT: Grade -B

Singularity Points: 3700

Position: Winger

(Evaluation: A boy with a lot of potential and talent to become an average professional soccer/football player with a lot of luck)

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'I don't know why I was expecting to see a change in the status, well the comment section did become more inclusive, but I wasn't that triggered, to begin with," I inwardly said after noticing that other than getting the extra thousand Sp there was no change. Heck, even the physical improvements I made over the summer didn't affect my talent grade.

[You will just have to work harder, completing that first task from the main mission means you are finally on the right track according to the system so you can be a little proud,] Eva commented sounding almost more excited than I am about me completing my first mission. Well, to be fair this is her purpose as the system's assistant, so it makes sense that she is happy.

'I will don't worry after all this is just the start of my football journey,' I told her with confidence as I finally arrived at the American football team's field. Emma's Cheer team was training at the side since

they would perform during the football team's home games. Although it's just the middle school teams game where they would perform but it would still give them enough practice for when they entered high school.

Taking a seat on the bleachers I sent a quick message to Mum letting her know where I was so she wouldn't go to the wrong field. Looking over the field I watched as the cheerleaders threw one of their teammates in the air before catching her again. Seeing that one of the girls was Emma and May I feel a slight shiver watching their actions.

I couldn't help but wince slightly after seeing how one of the three pyramids collapsed on itself because one of the girls on the ground lost their footing. Never in my life have I been happy about the fact that football gets played on the ground. I don't mind jumping high for an aerial duel but being thrown more than 3 feet in the air is a little too much. Especially when your only guarantee of a safe landing is left to someone else.

Ignoring the cheerleaders who were now huddled up around their fallen squad members my attention was captured by the happenings on the pitch. I saw a boy in full gear dodging and weaving through the line of scrimmage as if he was dancing. He managed to bring the oval ball a whole forty yards before being taken down by a double team. Instead of being disappointed, he started dancing seemingly happy about his achievements.

'Hey, Eva do you think I could incorporate some of those movements into my dribbling style?' I asked her in a curious tone still mesmerised at how the boy used body feints and sometimes dragged his legs to get by his opponents. Heck that coupled with his changed pace after passing the defenders basically made it almost impossible for those big boys to lay a hand on him. The only reason he got caught in the end was due to him being boxed in from the side and front.

[You can incorporate some of those movements in fact I would encourage you to do so. The best wingers developed their own dribbling style using the inspiration they gain over time,] She answered me sounding surprisingly open to the idea I got through a spurt of inspiration. Honestly, I wasn't expecting it since she always reprimands me for the dumb ideas I get when I want to spice up my way of training.



'Okay I'll make sure to study more types of player's dribble styles so I can develop my own unique version,' I told her determined to improve my dribble style which had reached a certain bottleneck for the past weeks.

Although I'm getting faster when I dribble however but it's still too rigged since I've been trying to copy Messi's style. It's not that his dribble style isn't good but it's just not the best one for me since I tend to use my speed more and love using skill moves more than he does. Copying Ronaldo was also a dead end, but I quickly realised that his style just wasn't suitable for me due to the difference in physical attributes. I mean the guy is tall and has lanky legs that support his style of play.

With this new path in front of me, I will focus more on developing my own style instead of trying to emulate others. After all a copy will never be as good as the original one. Feeling happy at my new revelation I thanked the boy in my heart as I walked over to Emma whose practice seemed to have just ended.